

Hungry Future Index

Methodological note

1. Purpose

Children are growing up in the shadow of a climate crisis that is fast becoming a hunger crisis. This review aims to assess how child hunger and malnutrition are recognized and addressed in national climate policy instruments, specifically:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

These instruments are mandated or encouraged under the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC). The characteristics are summarised in the table below.

Table 1. Summary of NDCs and NAPs

	NDCs	NAPs
Status	Politically binding under the Paris Agreement.	Voluntary tool under the Paris Agreement, but strongly recommended especially for developing countries.
Cycle	Every 5 years (the Paris Agreement was agreed in 2015, and NDC 3.0 are expected post-2025).	No specific timeline.
Theme	National climate targets and actions. Those countries which do not have independent NAP may include adaptation goals in NDCs,	National sectoral and cross sectoral adaptation strategies.

2. Scope

World Vision conducted an analysis of the extent to which child hunger and malnutrition are addressed in the national climate policy documents of 83 countries and the EU bloc.

The review focused on NDCs and NAPs submitted to the UNFCCC prior to April 2025. It is important to note that the US Government announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in January 2025, with the withdrawal becoming effective one year after the formal notification to the UN.

3. Data sources

The following sources were used:

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** Official submissions to the UNFCCC, accessed via the [UNFCCC's NDC registry](#). A systematic review identified references to hunger, child hunger, malnutrition and related terms (e.g., food security, food insecurity, nutrition, stunting, wasting, obesity, etc.).

- **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):** Official submissions to the UNFCCC, accessed via the [UNFCCC's NAP Central](#). A systematic review identified references to hunger, child hunger, malnutrition and related terms (e.g., food security, food insecurity, nutrition, stunting, wasting, obesity, etc.).
- **Supplementary data from UNICEF and NDC Partnership.** Reports and publications from UNICEF resource on child and youth sensitive NDCs, were used to provide contextual data and child participation, child hunger and malnutrition.

In cases where countries had not submitted NAPs or where NAP components were embedded within NDCs, the analysis relied solely on the most recent NDC available.

4. Analytical framework and scoring

The review evaluates the following areas:

- 1.) Policy integration of child hunger and malnutrition in national climate policies
- 2.) Child participation in the process of NDC and NAP development and implementation
- 3.) Commitment to action through concrete action plan and budget allocation

Hunger (0-2 points)

- **0 – No:** NDC nor NAP does not recognise the issue of food insecurity, hunger or related issues. Hunger is not acknowledged as a concern in the context of climate action.
- **1 – Medium (sub-issue):** food insecurity and hunger are addressed in NDC or NAP, but not as a primary focus. These issues may be addressed within broader topics, such as poverty reduction, agriculture, or social safety nets. Hunger is considered an aspect of a more significant issue but not the primary concern.
- **2 – Strong (key issue):** Hunger and food insecurity are addressed as key issues in NDC or NAP. Country explicitly focuses on hunger and food security as crucial components of the country's climate strategy, demonstrating a solid commitment to addressing hunger as part of the national climate agenda.

Malnutrition (0-2 points)

- **0 – No:** NDC nor NAP does not recognise the issue of nutrition security, malnutrition or related issues. Malnutrition is not acknowledged as a concern in the context of climate action.
- **1 – Medium (sub-issue):** nutrition security and malnutrition are addressed in NDC or NAP, but not as a primary focus. These issues may be addressed within broader topics, such as health, agriculture, or social safety nets. Malnutrition is considered an aspect of a more significant issue but not the primary concern.
- **2 – Strong (key issue):** nutrition security and malnutrition are addressed as key issues in NDC or NAP. Country explicitly focuses on malnutrition and nutrition security as crucial components of the country's climate strategy, demonstrating a solid commitment to addressing malnutrition as part of the national climate agenda.

Action against hunger and malnutrition (0-4 points)

- **0 – No:** No references are made to policies, actions, or strategies aimed at combating hunger or improving nutritional outcomes within the context of climate action.
- **2 – Medium (sub-issue):** action against hunger and malnutrition are included without detailed commitments, budget, timelines or measurable goals.

- **4 -Strong (key issue):** Specific and actionable commitments to addressing hunger and malnutrition integrating these strategies into national climate agenda. The commitments are supported by dedicated budgets and timelines for implementation. Additionally, measurable targets and indicators are provided to track progress in reducing hunger and improving nutrition outcomes, reflecting a solid and clear prioritisation of these issues as part of the country's climate goals.

Child hunger (0-2 points)

- **0 – No:** NDC nor NAP does not recognise the issue of food insecurity, hunger or related issues among children. Child hunger is not acknowledged as a concern in the context of climate action.
- **1 – Medium (sub issue):** food insecurity and hunger among children are addressed in NDC or NAP, but not as a primary focus.
- **2 – Strong (key issue):** food insecurity and hunger among children are addressed as key issues in NDC or NAP. Country explicitly focuses on child hunger and food insecurity as crucial components of the country's climate strategy, demonstrating a solid commitment to addressing hunger as part of the national climate agenda.

Child malnutrition (0-1 points)

- **0 – No:** NDC nor NAP does not recognise the issue of nutrition security, malnutrition or related issues among children.
- **1 – Yes:** nutrition security, malnutrition or other related issues among children are addressed in NDC or NAP. Malnutrition and other related issues include: stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.

Action against child hunger and malnutrition (0-4 points)

- **0 – No:** No references are made to policies, actions, or strategies aimed at combating child hunger or improving nutritional outcomes within the context of climate action.
- **2 – Medium (somewhat):** action against child hunger and malnutrition are included without detailed commitments, budget, timelines or measurable goals.
- **4 -Strong (yes with budget):** Specific and actionable commitments to addressing child hunger and malnutrition integrating these strategies into national climate agenda. The commitments are supported by dedicated budgets and timelines for implementation. Additionally, measurable targets and indicators are provided to track progress in reducing hunger and improving nutrition outcomes, reflecting a solid and clear prioritisation of these issues as part of the country's climate goals.

Child participation in NDC and/or NAP development and implementation processes (0-2 points)

- **0 – No:** no mention or evidence of child and youth participation in the NDC and/or NAP processes.
- **1 – Medium (somewhat):** NAC and/or NAP acknowledge the importance of the participation of children and young people, but the evidence of actual engagement or mechanisms to facilitate is limited.
- **2 – Strong (yes with budget):** children and young people are involved in the development, implementation, and/or monitoring of NDCs and/or NAP, with evidence of participation mechanisms.

Child participation scores are then combined with [the UNICEF's NDC child sensitivity categories](#) (A, B, C)

5. Methodology

Each NDC and NAP was reviewed and scored based on its recognition of the following issues:

- Hunger and child hunger
- Malnutrition and child malnutrition
- Child participation

The review considered the content the NDCs and NAPs, and any referenced national policies within the NDCs and NAPs.

Analytical steps

Step 1 - Key word search and filtering - a key word search was conducted to filter relevant sections of each document. The following terms were used:

Hunger-related terms: hunger was assessed through proxy indicators because UNFCCC does not define hunger. Proxy indicators for hunger for key word search include: *hunger, food/agrifood, food security/insecurity, 'nutrition/malnutrition, wasting', stunting, obesity, underweight, overweight, micronutrient deficiencies.*

Child and youth-related terms: *child/children, girls/boys, infant, family/families, household, youth/young people.*

Step 2 – Qualitative review of relevant sections: Following the keyword search, qualitative analysis was conducted based on the relevant sections to assess narrative depth and policy framing.

Limitations

For NDCs and NAPs which did not have the English versions (mainly Spanish and French), automated translation tool (DeepL) was used.

When NDCs and NAPs refer to specific national policies which are released in their national language different from English, these documents were not included in the analysis.